



Mavs go to extra time  
against Nanooks twice

The UNO hockey team  
split decisions in shootouts  
with Alaska this weekend.

**SPORTS**  
[PAGES 4 & 5]

# gateway

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA SINCE 1913

Ugly sweater parties bring  
alternative spin for fashion

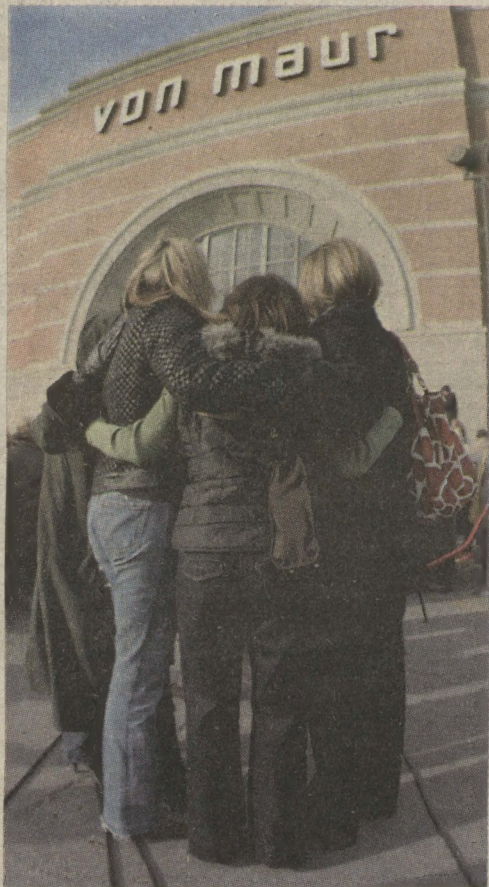
Looking for a theme for a  
holiday party? Try something  
a little different this year.

**CULTURE**  
[PAGE 7]



VOLUME 08 | ISSUE 25

TUESDAY | DECEMBER 9, 2008



## Remembering a tragedy: Von Maur shooting memorial held



**Left - Omahans**  
Amy Spainhower  
(left to right), Misty  
Schwartz and Jasmine  
Veskerna comfort each  
other outside Von Maur  
during Friday's public  
remembrance ceremony  
of the lives lost one year  
ago at the department  
store.

Spainhower and her  
friends were inside the  
store at the time of the  
shooting. She said she  
had just paid her bill at  
the customer service  
desk on the third floor  
and was walking off  
the escalator on to the  
second floor when the  
first shots were fired.

Spainhower noted  
that the time on her  
receipt was marked 1:38  
p.m. while the first 911  
calls were received at  
1:42 p.m.

**Top right -** The crowd pauses for a moment of silence during Friday's public remembrance ceremony marking the one-year anniversary of the shootings at Von Maur. **Bottom right -** Several hundred people gathered outside Von Maur Friday afternoon. (ALL PHOTOS BY MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

## GSO granted trip funds

**BRIAN MOODY**  
STAFF WRITER

Three members of the Gender and Sexual Orientation student agency will be attending a leadership conference, partially paid for by Student Government funds after all.

Student senators voted 12-11 in special session Thursday night to allow the agency use of operational budget money to attend The Task Force's Creating Change Conference in Denver from Jan. 28 to Feb. 1.

At Nov. 20's regular senate meeting, a tie was the result after votes were recounted. Student Government rules say the student body president — usually a non-voting member — will cast the tie-breaking vote.

GSO, one of the agencies of Student Government, will use its own budget to pay for more than half of the \$2,800 bill for the conference, accommodation and food costs. No more than \$700 in Student Government operational funds will cover the remainder. Any additional money left over from the \$700 will be returned to the operational budget.

Student Government President Lucas Seiler said providing funds for a newer agency's activity will foster growth and should have been an opened-and-closed case to begin with.

"The way this transpired, and you saw it, it was just totally more complicated than it should have been," Seiler said. "I think it's really important that we provide ways to promote GSO because it is really one of our newest agencies. To bring it to where it should be, to help it out with promotions so people see it, this is a great way to help it out with the future."

Ejay Jack, GSO's director, said he was thrilled with the result and hopes the conference helps with the students' leadership skills.

"This is very good news for GSO and the student body," Jack said. "The GSO is in its infancy stage, being its second year in existence."

SEE **FUNDING:** PAGE 2

## UNO experts chime in on Obama's Afghanistan policy discussions

**JASMINE MAHARISI**  
CONTRIBUTOR

On Jan. 20, Barack Obama will take office as the 44th president of the United States. After settling into the Oval Office, Obama is set to begin executing policy changes towards the nation of Afghanistan.

An important topic for voters, the war in Iraq has been a critical focus for the Obama administration. In March of last year, however, Obama announced his intentions to shift military focus from Iraq back to Afghanistan.

According to the Web site for the Office of the President-elect, [www.change.gov](http://www.change.gov), Obama plans a "responsible, phased withdrawal" of troops from Iraq during a course of 16 months.

This means troops are expected to be completely withdrawn by summer 2010, seven years after the start of the Iraq war. The Obama administration will also shift focus to Afghanistan,

sending approximately 80,000 more troops to the country.

Sending more troops over, Obama has said, will decrease the amount of civilian casualties, which nearly tripled from 2006 to 2007 due to airstrikes. Obama has argued the airstrikes could have been prevented had there been more military ground troops in Afghanistan.

"The incoming administration determined that the wrong war is being fought," said UNO political science assistant professor Hassan Barari, whose research fields include Middle Eastern politics and the Middle East peace process.

While al-Qaida members live in different countries, Barari said, they are mainly in Afghanistan.

Obama has called Afghanistan "the war we have to win" and said he would send thousands more troops to Afghanistan to bolster the 72,000 U.S.

and NATO forces there now. He also pledged during the election to press NATO allies for more troops and to step up the training of Afghan forces and non-military aid programs.

But the debate over the presence of more U.S. troops in Afghanistan has been heating up since Obama's foreign policy announcement.

Some believe the increased military presence will help to decrease the amount of civilian casualties, while others argue that more troops will only bring more destruction to the country. But others, like Barari, say that there isn't a simple solution to this issue.

Afghanistan reconstruction needs to be a priority in order to stabilize the country, Barari said, especially after more than 30 years of war.

As of now, only 28 percent of Afghanistan's population can read and 40 percent of the country is unemployed. Education is a fundamental part of reconstruction, but Afghan schools lack books and supplies to further educational ambitions.

Thomas Gouttierre, director of the Center for Afghanistan Studies and dean of International Studies and Programs at UNO, is in charge of the only center in the country devoted exclusively to Afghanistan studies.

Gouttierre said he agrees that education is a necessity to rebuilding Afghanistan. The center operates a variety of projects including immersion training for military and civilian personnel. The center also acts as a catalyst for those traveling to Afghanistan.

Although the Obama administration has yet to take office, Gouttierre said the center has been contacted, but communication has

SEE **AFGHANISTAN:** PAGE 6

## Recycling program gathers more than 60 tons of material

**SCOTT STEWART**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The UNO recycling program has recycled more than 60 tons of what would otherwise have been garbage since the program was revamped this summer.

According to statistics provided by UNO Environmental Health and Safety, 120,880 pounds of recyclable materials have been processed as of Nov. 26.

Since mid-September, the campus has averaged around 3 tons of recycled material per week, based on biweekly totals provided by Environmental Health and Safety.

Recycled materials include all types of paper products, cardboard, water bottles, soda pop cans and all types of plastic and metal containers.

UNO's recycling program is "single-stream," meaning it is not sorted until after it is collected. Such programs produce more waste but encourage recycling by making it more convenient to do so.

"I ask the entire UNO community to support and participate in our expanded, 'single-stream' recycling program," Chancellor John Christensen said in a statement. "By making a few minor changes to our daily routine and behavior, we can all make a big difference on the

SEE **RECYCLING:** PAGE 3



MCT



President-elect Barack Obama introduces from left, Hillary Clinton as Secretary of State, James Jones as National Security Advisor and Susan Rice as U.S. Ambassador United Nations during a press conference at the Hilton Chicago Hotel on Dec. 1, 2008. Obama's national security team will help him implement his foreign policy changes with Afghanistan. (NANCY STONE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT)



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FROM **FUNDING**: PAGE 1

While some senators were against or were confused with the legislation, they also respected Student Government rules.

"I originally voted against paying for the trip," Sen. Mark Patel said. "But we found out the vote was actually a tie, and the right thing to do was to let the president/regent vote."

Sen. Megan Schmitz said the result would benefit GSO, though it was confusing at first.

"I am not going to lie. I was a bit confused about all of it," Schmitz said. "I think we made the right decision, and it will be very beneficial for them."

Sen. Neal Bonacci said Jack runs the agency well and the operational funds for the trip will help continue the success.

"I think going to this conference [will bring] a lot of leadership in the agency and kind of goes off what Ejay started," Bonacci said.

Chief Administrative Officer Matt Nelson applauded senators' handling of the complex situation. Regardless of the senators' individual decisions, following Student Government's constitution was the goal.

"I think they handled it well, about as good as it could be handled," Nelson said. "I think it was a situation that, if anything, people learned from. Obviously, people probably had different opinions on the piece of legislation, but what they did tonight was not about that. It was about making amends to make sure we were following the rules."

Budget-wise, Executive Treasurer Shari Tangeman said there should not have been any question whether to approve the money since GSO is part of Student Government. The Student Activities Budget Commission, Tangeman said, did not provide much assistance due to the agency's infancy and the budget includes an allocation for conferences.

"I don't think it's wrong for Student Government to pay it out of our operational budget because we have a [budget] line that is allocated to conferences and retreats," Tangeman said. "Ejay is a member of Student Government, so I think it's OK to pay a member of Student Government with Student Government fees."

Jack said attending the conference would provide the groundwork and open the lines of communication for a diverse and respectful campus.

"We need to learn how to garner support and knowledge to learn how to effectively speak and interact with students, faculty, staff and administration," Jack said, "and voice the concerns of the LGBTQIAH [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, inter-sexed, allied and heterosexual] community that encompasses everyone at UNO."

Jack will attend the conference along with two members of the GSO advisory board, Caitie Wegener and Marques Hollie. Wegener is also the president of Queers & Allies, the social outreach organization affiliated with the agency.

## Omaha poet, adjunct UNO faculty member brings poetry to Belarus



Omaha poet Matt Mason discusses poetry at Nathan Hale Middle School in Omaha. Mason is traveling in Belarus to read and discuss poetry in the former Soviet bloc country as part of a program with the U.S. State Department.

PHOTO COURTESY MIDVERSE.COM

**TOM MCCAULEY**  
CONTRIBUTOR

Belarus continues to be on shaky grounds with the U.S. after parliamentary elections in September that did not meet international standards for transparency. President Alexander Lucashenko has held office since 1994, the first year elections took place in Belarus.

Political parties that try to take part in elections are threatened with deregistration, thereby undermining the democratic process, the State Department said. The country has been called the last dictatorship in Europe.

The embassy where Mason will read has also featured rock bands that could not otherwise play in Belarus because they were seen as too subversive, Mason said.

The highlight of Mason's trip will be an English-language slam poetry event with U.S. Embassy officers and local citizens participating. The slam will take place on Nov. 10 to celebrate International Human Rights Day. It is intended to

SEE **BELARUS**: PAGE 3

## Missouri Valley Reading Series wraps up

**JASMINE MAHARISI**  
CONTRIBUTOR

The 2008 Missouri Valley Reading Series hosted a variety of writers this season, including two poets, a novelist, a memoirist and a survivor of a near-death encounter with a pheasant.

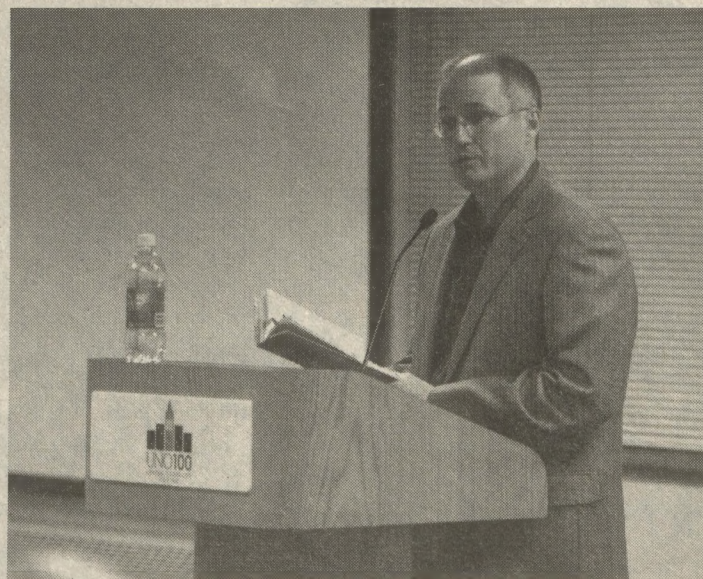
John T. Price, UNO English professor and non-fiction writer, concluded this year's series by reading from his memoir, "Man Killed by Pheasant." The memoir, which consists of Price's colorful experiences in the Great Plains region, was one of the books students read in Writer's Workshop 1010, Contemporary Writers: In Person In Print, the class tied to the series.

Before the readings, students read and discussed the works to get a sense of the various ways writers approach their craft.

Price isn't the only writer at this season's series living in or around Omaha. Joy Castro, memoirist and author of "The Truth Book," is an English professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Although Castro and Price — as well as other past participants of the series — currently reside in Nebraska, Missouri Valley Reading Series coordinator Miles Waggener said locality isn't the only criterium when selecting writers for the series.

"I try to take into consideration the needs of the community, the interests of the university and especially the interests of the creative writing students," Waggener said.



John T. Price reads from his new memoir, "Man Killed by Pheasant." (ANDREA BARBE/THE GATEWAY)

The interest was definitely there Wednesday night as people quickly filled the chairs in the Milo Bail Student Center Dodge Room, leaving some standing in the back listening to Price read. Price's reading attracted the largest crowd in this season's series.

After the reading, audience members had the opportunity to ask Price questions and get books signed.

"John Price is an excellent essayist and memoirist," Waggener said. "We're lucky that we have some very, very talented writers on campus."

The series, which Waggener said was the brainchild of Richard Duggin, chair of the Writer's Workshop department, has been hosting a variety of writers for more than 30 years.

The series takes place each fall with readings that are free and open to the public.

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FROM **BELARUS:** PAGE 2

make Belarusian youth aware of their rights to free expression.

Slam poetry is a style of performing poetry before an audience and a panel of judges, Mason said.

Rather than just reading their poems aloud like most poets, slam poets compete for points by using their bodies like actors and modifying the register of their voices to complement their original works, Mason said. No props, costumes, or instruments may be used in a poetry slam.

While some may not think of poetry as an agent for social change, the genre has historically been an avenue for significant social commentary, Mason said.

“Granted, good political poems are among the hardest to write, but poets have, in all ages and countries, written some of the most telling and important commentary on their times,” he said. “Of course, I’m a poet, and maybe I just have an over-inflated view of what I aim to do.”

There is a political bent to some of Mason’s poetry. The title of his first full-length collection – “Things We Don’t Know We Don’t Know,” released in 2006 – was taken from a quote by controversial former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

“I think poetry has a growing place in America, as more poetry is coming to the forefront which is accessible and understandable to most Americans,” Mason said. “For a good stretch, poetry was seen as ‘above’ most people, and too hard to actually be understood. Though poetry like that certainly has a place, I think it’s important we have poems with a broader appeal so that poetry, as it has been in past generations, is something people read for enjoyment rather than only to complete an assignment.”

Mason cited the rise of slam for the increasing acceptance of poetry by mainstream audiences.

In terms of respect for poets, however, Belarus surpasses America, Mason said. The city of Minsk features a major park named for a poet, with statues in that park representing characters from the poet’s work. There are also city streets named for poets.

“So until Omaha has a Ted Kooser Park or Greg Kosmicki Boulevard, Belarus may be beating us,” Mason said.

In addition to publishing his work in more than a hundred magazines and anthologies, Mason

has brought slam poetry to Omaha through monthly engagements at the Omaha Healing Arts Center in the Old Market.

Mason, who is married to fellow poet Sarah Mckinstry-Brown, is widely credited as Omaha’s foremost advocate of the poetry slam. He has won three national competitions and performing all over the U.S. with various slam poetry teams.

Since August, Mason has also taught an Introduction to Creative Writing section at UNO. Previously, he has taught at Creighton and the University of North Dakota-Lake Region.

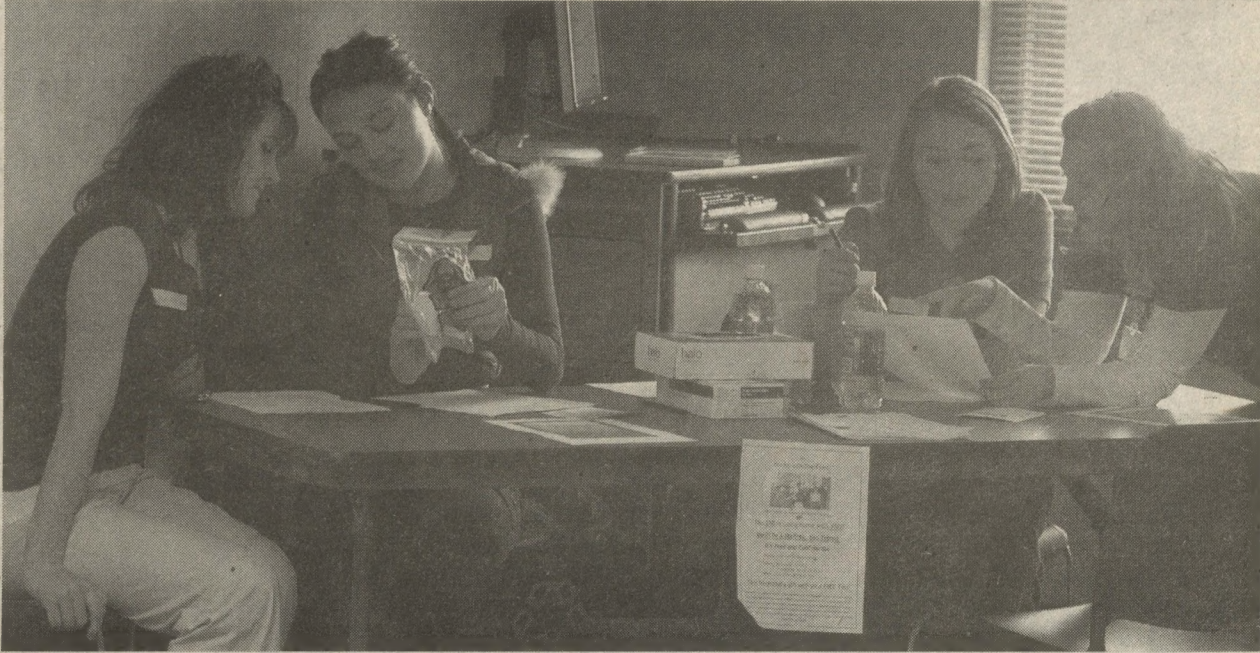


PHOTO BY ANDREA BARBE/THE GATEWAY

### STD TESTS CONDUCTED FOR WORLD AIDS DAY

Methodist nursing students Karissa Anderson (left to right) and Rachal Muehlich prepare a specimen to be sent to a lab while Maggie Weir and Jennifer Clausen look over paper work during last week’s free STD testing in conjunction with World AIDS Day.

Monday marked the 20th anniversary of World AIDS Day, which brings individuals and organizations around the world together to bring increased awareness to the global AIDS epidemic.

To observe the event, the Douglas County Health Department coordinated with the university to offer free STD tests to UNO students and other Omaha community members.

More males than females attended, according to event organizers, and in all 35 people received tests, 27 of whom got tested Tuesday. Testing was held in the Milo Bail Student Center.

THIS REPORT CONTAINS MATERIAL FROM UWIRE.

FROM **RECYCLING:** PAGE 1

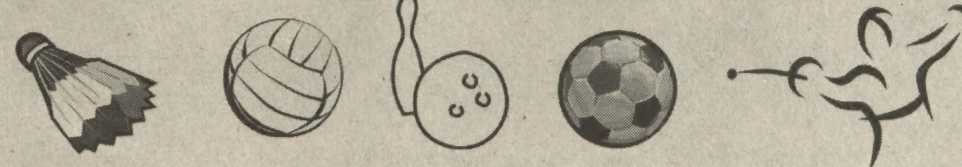
environment.”

As a reminder, non-recyclable trash – including all food, liquids, Styrofoam, tissues, paper towels, construction materials, plastic bags and glass – should still be discarded in the black trash containers around campus. Recyclables can be deposited in blue containers located across campus.

For more information, visit the campus’ sustainability Web site, [www.unomaha.edu/green](http://www.unomaha.edu/green).

Faculty and staff wishing to order recycling containers for their work area can contact Paula Slavin at 554-2385 or [pslavin@unomaha.edu](mailto:pslavin@unomaha.edu).

## GET INVOLVED THIS SPRING



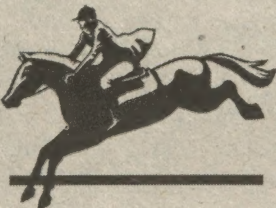
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Jerad Kaufmann sets up to make a save point blank on Alaska's Braden Walls during Saturday night's game. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

**SCOTT STEWART**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Heading into last weekend, the Mavericks knew they were going up against the strongest defense in the Central Collegiate Hockey Association.

What they might not have expected, however, was that five periods of scoreless hockey and two unusual goals would bring UNO and the Alaska Nanooks to back-to-back shootouts to resolve this weekend's home series.

In the end, the teams evenly split the CCHA conference points, with both teams winning one of the shootouts to earn three points on the series. For national rankings, both games will be recorded as ties.

"How more evenly balanced can you have two teams?" coach Mike Kemp asked after Saturday. "You've got both teams fighting and playing 0-0 in five straight periods and in overtime there, that's pretty incredible."

Nanooks coach Dallas Ferguson echoed Kemp's remarks about the hard-fought nature of the series and the growing rivalry between the two schools, which take the ice against each other again in mid-January in Fairbanks, Alaska.

"If [before the series] you would have just said, 'Hey, here's three points' before we left, we would have said, 'OK,'" Ferguson joked in a statement. "That would've saved us a lot of money."

Kemp said the series was reminiscent of the last encounter between the teams during the first

round of the CCHA playoffs last spring. After splitting two games, the Mavs finally defeated Alaska 2-1 in the third game, but not after recording the longest game in UNO history at 104 minutes and 22 seconds, going into triple overtime.

"You look at the history of these two teams, this weekend was exactly what we have come to expect," Kemp said. "The length – the long, long periods of time – with close, tight checking; low scoring, any bounce is going to win the game for you. That's the history of the rivalry and that's what we have come to expect."

After the series, the Mavs stand at 9-4-3 overall with 5-4-2-3 in the CCHA, which includes two shootout wins.

UNO next faces Lake Superior State in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., this weekend. From there, the Mavs will play three non-conference games over the holiday break and will return home to face Northern Michigan on Jan. 9 and Jan. 10.

#### Goaltenders shine in 0-0 tie, shootout win Friday

After last week's devastating 4-3 loss to Ohio State, where junior goaltender Jeremie Dupont was beat with only 1.1 seconds remaining on the clock, Dupont took the ice for what he said he knew would be another really tough game.

Sixty-five minutes and 31 saves later, Dupont recorded his second shutout as a Maverick. His first career shutout was his third game

wearing the red-and-black against Western Michigan in October 2006.

"This was probably the best game Jeremie has played since he's been here," Kemp said after the game. "He was just outstanding for us."

Unfortunately for Dupont and the Mavs, though, a shutout wasn't enough on its own to overcome Alaska. The Nanooks' star goaltender, Pittsburgh Penguins-drafted Chad Johnson, had earned back-to-back CCHA Goaltender of the Week honors coming into Friday's contest, including recording his third career shutout on Nov. 23 against Ferris State.

On Friday, Johnson recorded No. 4, going save-to-save with Dupont while recording 28 saves overall on the night.

Nevertheless, Johnson's goaltending aside, the Mavs still had opportunities.

In the second period, for instance, UNO had a 5-on-3 advantage following calls against Alaska's Ryan Hohl for tripping and Joe Sovo for hooking. The excitement was so intense during the 56 seconds of the two-man advantage that the goal judge behind Johnson accidentally hit the red lights for a brief moment.

No goal, however, ultimately resulted from the Mavericks' power play, which overall was ranked third in the CCHA after Notre Dame and Miami going into the weekend.

"That's been a bugaboo all

## Mavs earn pair of ties, split shootouts in even break against Alaska Nanooks



**Top** - Jeremie Dupont pokes the puck away from Alaska's Dustin Sather during Friday night's shootout.

**Middle** - John Kemp skates in on Alaska goaltender Chad Johnson during Friday night's shootout. Johnson blocked Kemp's shot.

**Bottom** - Tomas Klempa and Alaska's Ryan Hohl fight for the puck during Saturday's game.

ALL PHOTOS BY MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY

season long," Kemp said. "That's your opportunity, and we have not done a very good job so far."

In the third period, shots from Dan Charleston and Rich Purslow – both used to being heroes for the Mavs in close contests – bounced off the pipe, drawing the game into overtime. Alaska outshot UNO 6-1 in the five-minute extra frame, but Dupont held on to force the Mavs' second shootout of the season.

The first four shooters the Mavs sent out – Joey Martin, John Kemp, Charleston and Tomas Klempa – all missed their mark, as did the Alaskan shooters.

On the fifth attempt, Purslow beat Johnson to give the Mavs a 1-0 advantage. Hohl, however, was the first shooter to beat Dupont on the night to keep Alaska in the contest.

That's when assistant coach Todd Jones suggested to Mike Kemp to give the next shot to

Alex Hudson, the Mavs' freshman forward who has exploded since his first two career goals against Mercyhurst earlier this season.

"Coach Jones said Huddy has been good in shootouts," Kemp said. "At that point, it's just kind of a craps shoot who you send out there."

Hudson then took the ice and beat Johnson with a shot he had prepared to do, he said, regardless of how Johnson had been playing.

"It felt kind of like an out-of-body experience," Hudson said. "It's a move that I've been practicing for a while. You just go with what you know and luckily it worked for me. After I scored, I felt out-of-body and shocked that it went in."

Hudson said the trust of his coaches meant a lot to him.

"I was thankful to the coaches for giving me that opportunity,"

SEE HOCKEY: PAGE 5



Hudson said. “I was glad I was able to come through for the team.”

To answer Hudson, the Nanooks sent out their own freshman forward, Justin Brossman. Dupont, however, wasn’t about to let another puck slide past him and held on to give the Mavs a 2-1 win in six rounds of the shootout.

“I’ve been really focusing on being calm this year and just staying even-keeled and making one save at a time,” Dupont said. “You make one save and then there’s another one within the next two seconds and you’re ready to make that save. You’re just focusing on the moment and I think that’s the key to my composure.”

**Parity continues with 1-1 tie, shootout loss Saturday**

The first two periods of Saturday’s game felt like a mirror image of Friday’s contest, with the Mavs and Nanooks going for another two periods of scoreless hockey.

In the first period, goaltender Jerad Kaufmann stopped a breakaway by Alaska junior Dion Knelsen while pressure continued to build between the two squads.

Going into the second period, Kemp said, the Mavs were in a good position, including a strong power play in the second minute of the period.

“Then, all the sudden, we spent eight minutes shorthanded [and] had to kill off a 5-on-3,” Kemp said. “I mean we were lucky to survive because again in that situation we use the same players so much.”

Swanson got the penalties going with a call for interference at 6:41. Klempa then received an unusual call for unsportsmanlike conduct at 8:39, which was followed by whistles against Charleston for tripping at 11:54 and Matt Ambroz at 12:55 to give Alaska a two-man advantage.

Kemp said Klempa’s penalty in particular, which came after an official overheard a verbal exchange between Klempa and another player, was a bad penalty under the circumstance.

“Of the four penalties, all four of them were ones we didn’t need to take,” Kemp said.

Still, the Maverick defense held, with Kaufmann recording 10 of his 25 saves during the second period, including a breathtaking save with the two-man disadvantage.

“Kaufmann made maybe the most sparkling save of either goaltender of the night on that 5-3 on the backside where he came across and made a great glove-stop,” Kemp said.

The third period saw the first regulation goal of the night, with Nanooks’ senior captain Adam Naglich driving a shot past Kaufmann at the 12:09 mark during a Maverick power play.

“It’s just frustrating to give up the goal that we allowed – a shorthanded goal on the power play,” Kemp said. “Our power play did not play at the level it needed to play at all weekend long and that was one of the costly things for us.”

With the seconds ticking away late in the third, UNO realized it would need a miracle to get back in the game. A miracle is exactly what the Mavs received.

Only 61 seconds after falling behind 1-0, freshman defenseman Matt Smith sneaked a shot past Johnson from the red line.

“Coaches have always said in the past years just throw it on net and good things will happen,” Smith said. “God’s grace blessed me tonight.”

Kaufmann said a weight lifted off his shoulders when he realized Smith had scored the tying goal. Kaufmann and Kemp both agreed with Smith that the hand of God was involved in the play.

“I’ve seen – albeit not very often – but I have seen those odd goals to go in,” Kemp said. “For a guy like Chad Johnson who plays such a great game of hockey, it’s kind of hard to believe that one actually went in.”

Johnson said in a statement that he felt it was a shot he definitely should have had. He said it was a hard mistake to accept after such a strong weekend.

“[Smith] took a great shot, and I kind of lost it in the seats for about half a second,” Johnson said. “I thought it was going higher than my blocker, but by the time I noticed where it was, it was going low blocker and inside my arm.”

After Smith’s goal, neither team could produce much offense for the remainder of the frame or the five-minute overtime period. For the second night, the Mavs went into a shootout against Alaska.

Both teams missed their first attempt, with Joey Martin trying for UNO. After John Kemp missed the Mav’s second attempt, Hohl again made good for Alaska – giving the Nanooks a 1-0 advantage.

Charleston kept UNO in it by scoring in the third



round of the shootout, but Kaufmann and the rest of the Mavs fell to Alaska when Kevin Petovello put a forehand shot high over Kaufmann’s blocker.

Assessing the game, Mike Kemp said he felt the Mavs’ offense really never came together during the series. Nevertheless, he has no doubt that UNO will bounce back and generate offense as the season continues.

“The credit really goes to Alaska,” Kemp said. “They play a stifling defense and they really did a great job of not giving us any room to work plays or make offense. They did an excellent job of taking away our offense and didn’t allow us to generate the way we’re capable of generating.”

**Mav fans give to good causes over weekend**

UNO hockey fans gave to three good causes during the home series against Alaska.

Saturday was Military Appreciation Night, where special military-themed jerseys worn by the Mavs were auctioned during the game to benefit the Nebraska Troop Support and the Bryan McDonough Military Heroes Foundation.

The first Military Appreciation Night, the brainchild of McDonough’s friend, UNO senior goaltender Jerad Kaufmann, raised more than \$11,500 last season.

This year’s auction raised more than \$12,000, said Shirley Fey, a member of the Blue Line Club and a secretary in the Athletic Department. The money will be split evenly between the two charities.

Channel 94.1’s annual Diaper Drive started off with



**Top** - Alex Hudson beats Alaska goaltender Chad Johnson during Friday night’s shootout to win the game for UNO.

**Bottom** - Junior goalie Jeremie Dupont (right) congratulates freshman Matt Smith after his third period goal tied Saturday night’s game 1-1. It was Smith’s first goal as a Mav.

ALL PHOTOS BY MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY

an event sponsored by the Panhellenic Council during the second intermission on Friday. The organizers’ goal is to collect half a million diapers for the Lydia House, a women and children’s shelter in Omaha.

Toys for Tots, the annual program run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve to collect Christmas gifts for needy children, also collected donations at the games.

Photo Editor Michelle Bishop contributed to this report.

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## Mavericks drop third straight game with loss to Fort Hays State Friday



Senior Ellen Majewski, pictured earlier this season, scored 11 points against Fort Hays State Friday night. Majewski appeared in all 29 games last season, making two starts and averaging 3.9 points and 1.9 rebounds last season. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

MICHELLE BISHOP  
PHOTO EDITOR

The Mavs dropped their third straight game as Fort Hays State handed UNO a 87-70 setback Friday night in front of 1,345 fans at Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays, Kan.

Fort Hays State (5-3, 1-0 MIAA) used a 15-4 run to open the game and set the tone as UNO fell behind early and never recovered.

The Mavs trailed 45-33 at halftime and would get no closer than nine points in the second half. A pair of free throws by senior Amanda Brodsack with 5:22 left brought UNO within nine points at 75-66, but the Tigers closed the game on a 12-4 run to win their MIAA opener.

The loss dropped UNO to 1-4

overall and 0-2 in MIAA play.

Brodsack and junior Alyssa Green each had 13 points and seven rebounds for UNO. Seniors LaToya Wright and Ellen Majewski each added 11 points, while junior Jill Wolf chipped in 10 points and a team-leading eight rebounds.

Junior Kayla Klug led Fort Hays with 19 points while junior Audra Binford added 18 and junior Erica Biel chipped in 17 with a game-high nine rebounds.

UNO out-rebounded the Tigers 48-43, but only shot 34.7 percent from the field, compared to 42.6 percent for Fort Hays.

The Mavs return home to face York College on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the Sapp Fieldhouse.

## Men's hoops pick up first MIAA win on road after Jenkins nets high of 27 points

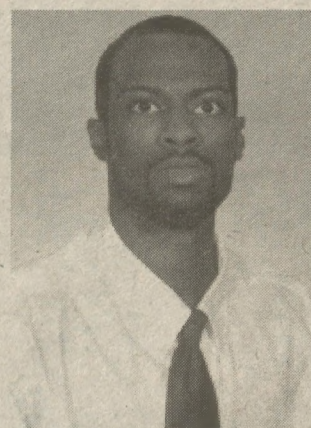
MICHELLE BISHOP  
PHOTO EDITOR

The Mavs picked up their first MIAA win by dropping Fort Hays State 80-77 Friday night in front of 2,345 fans at Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays, Kan.

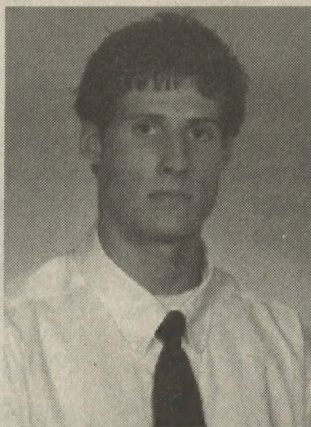
Senior Michael Jenkins scored a game-high 27 points, including 10 of UNO's first 16 points, as UNO built a 16-3 lead five minutes into the game. UNO cruised into halftime with a 40-24 lead. UNO (5-1, 1-1 MIAA) shot 61.5 percent from the floor in the first half.

The Mavs never trailed in the game, but Fort Hays (6-1, 0-1 MIAA) chipped down UNO's 16-point lead to nine early in the second half.

The Mavs battled back to increase their lead to double digits, but the Tigers once again clawed back for a final push. Fort Hays junior Tim Peintner sunk a 3-pointer with 25 seconds



MICHAEL JENKINS



MITCH ALBERS

remaining to cut the UNO lead to three, but the Tigers would get no closer as the Mavs held on for the win.

UNO shot 61.4 percent from the field in the game while Fort Hays hit just 37.8 percent.

Sophomore Mitch Albers chipped in 19 points for the Mavs and junior Andrew Bridger added 14 points. Junior Matt Akins grabbed a team-high eight rebounds.

The Mavs took advantage at the charity stripe, sinking 22 of 33 free throws. Jenkins did the majority of the work at the stripe for UNO, hitting 15 of 21 attempts.

Fort Hays senior Terry Jeffries led with the Tigers with 18 points while senior Tyrone Evans added 17 points.

The Mavs return home to face York College on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Sapp Fieldhouse.

### FROM AFGHANISTAN: PAGE 1

remained informal.

"They have asked our opinion about this or that," Gouttierre said. "But nothing formal."

Since it started more than 30 years ago, the center has been printing books and hosting Afghan teachers for six to eight weeks for educational training.

The teacher-training project is perhaps the most unique program at the center, Gouttierre said.

When the teachers return to Afghanistan, they train other teachers to work directly in the Afghan schools.

Projects such as these, Gouttierre said, will help rebuild Afghanistan from within.

The teacher-training program, however, is a fairly recent project that started in 2002. Before then, the Taliban was in power in Afghanistan, prohibiting women's education and burning entire collections of books.

Six years later, though, 80 percent of the participants in the center's teacher-training program have been female, with access to the Arthur Paul Afghanistan Collection located

in UNO's Criss Library. The collection has more than 12,000 volumes that have been accumulated since its donation in the fall of 1974.

"There are books in this library that are not available in Kabul," said the collection's librarian, Shaista Wahab. "You could see the expression [of the teachers] with the kind of books we have here that couldn't be found anywhere in Afghanistan."

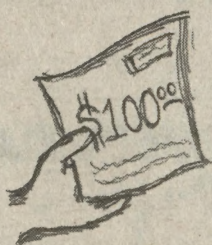
But if education is an essential element in reconstruction, how will the presence of U.S. troops work to achieve that goal?

The troops can help bring a sense of security in the schools, which are still a target for terrorists, Wahab said. Parents may then become more secure in sending their children to school.

"Parents are afraid to send their children to school because they're not sure what will happen," Wahab said. "When the parents send their children out, they are not sure if they will come back."

McClatchy-Tribune Information Services contributed to this report.

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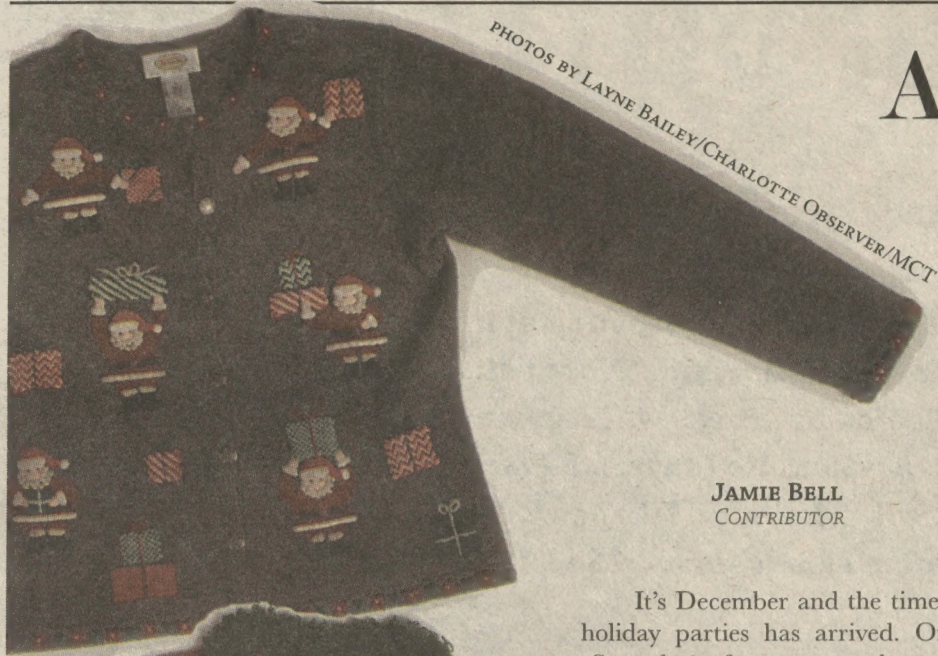
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# Alternative holiday parties put new spin on fashion



JAMIE BELL  
CONTRIBUTOR

It's December and the time for holiday parties has arrived. On a Saturday afternoon at the mall, men and women spend hours tracking down the perfect holiday outfit, whether it's a dress covered in sparkles or a classic holiday sweater.

Meanwhile, just a few blocks away, customers comb the racks of the Goodwill store looking for the ugliest sweater they can find.

There's quite a noticeable contradiction between the two groups. But it's a sign of the times that perfectly demonstrates the ever-growing popularity of ugly sweater parties.

"Parties are usually good in the first place, but a party with a theme is better," sophomore Colin

Suiter said. "Plus, an ugly sweater is an easy theme that isn't too hard to put together."

Typically, these parties center on the designated attire.

Guests are expected to wear the gaudiest, loudest and most unattractive sweater they can find. The kind of sweater that most people remember their third-grade teachers wearing during the Christmas season are ideal.

Some parties even feature contests for the ugliest sweater. Others just use it to build up a no-stress atmosphere.

"Everyone looks a little bit dumber," Suiter said. "So it's easier to strike up a conversation."

Although many people like Suiter find the parties charming, there are those who oppose parties that focus on less-than-appealing clothing options.

"Personally, I would rather look cute at a party than buy a nasty sweater," junior Ann Erickson said. "People have no style as it is. Why would you want to make it worse?"

Most people, however, are seeing an increase in ugly sweater parties, which uncovers the problem of where to purchase these treasured garments.

One popular option is to surf the Internet

using Web sites like eBay and Amazon, but most consumers prefer shopping at thrift stores to find their flashy sweater. Local stores such as Thrift World and Goodwill receive frequent requests during the holiday season.

Diane Wilson, a sales associate at the Goodwill at 2221 N. 109th St., said that the store is seeing requests from customers looking for Christmas sweaters for men, women and children and that their stores have had to adapt to the increased demand.

"We have a special section, but we sell the 'good' ones rather fast," Wilson said.

Wilson believes the appeal of these ugly sweater parties is that they allow attendees to have a good time in a costume of sorts. The popularity of the parties is good for business, she said, but wishes that the company could receive more donations in order to keep up with the demand.

"Hopefully it continues," Wilson said. "Or better yet, that someone comes up with an 'ugly' party for another holiday."

Perhaps one day, distasteful Easter sweaters will be in demand. In the meantime, ugly Christmas sweater parties will remain a welcome alternative to the more typical holiday cocktail party.

## 'Australia' leaves Luhrmann fans wanting

REVIEW BY  
AMBER MCCASKILL  
CONTRIBUTOR

Fans of director Baz Luhrmann should brace themselves. They will be left wanting more than artistic beauty and epic tone in "Australia."

The film takes place circa 1939 with the rise of the heroin Sarah Ashley, played by Nicole Kidman.

Ashley has to conquer the Australian outback and save her cattle farm. She is aided by a local cattleman simply called "The Drover," played by Hugh Jackman who quickly, and quite expectedly, becomes her love interest.

At one point, the problems are solved and the audience thinks the movie is about to wrap up with a conclusion in plain sight.

That is when the movie takes a turn and viewers learn that it's only halfway over. It is in this change that Luhrmann makes his first mistake. The movie begins to make too many plot twists and they eventually become so common that the audience grows nauseous.

As we are taken forward in time, the movie's goals shift, as well.

After a very brief montage, the story randomly starts up again two years later on the brink of World War II. Now, the audience is suddenly reliving the movie "Pearl Harbor." The characters find themselves bombarded by a shower of Japanese bombs that desecrate the town depicted earlier in the film and in previews.

During this point, everything spirals out of control and the movie becomes messy. The characters that were introduced at the start of the film are now lost in the clutter.

It becomes painfully obvious there are too many goals, and even with the two hours and 45 minutes it takes to get through the movie, there is still not enough time to accomplish them all.

If gigantic explosions and cattle driving aren't enough for you, there's more.

There's a third and final plotline revolving around an Aboriginal boy named Nullah, played by Brandon Walters. Nullah is under the constant threat of being captured and sent off to a missionary school so that he can learn a Christian way of life.

After being under the care of Ashley and The Drover for most of the movie, Nullah is finally captured, and the scenes of the missionary are a graceful way of delivering an effective message. It's one of the more poignant and effective stories the film offers, and in this, Luhrmann helps redeem himself.

The theme of exploitation of the Aborigines in Australia summons haunting memories of a culture not too different from our own, and reminds us of our own past assimilation efforts of the indigenous peoples of North America.

It is instances like these that "Australia" is somewhat successful. Unfortunately, more often than not, brief moments in this movie are more appealing than the movie as a whole.

The acting is spectacular, the cinematography beautiful and at points, the directing is unique. And yet, somehow, when put together, "Australia" loses much of its grandeur.

In the end, I believe that whether it was Luhrmann's intention or not, viewers will pick out what moments they like from the buffet line offered up and then move on. "Australia" isn't as unique or memorable as "Moulin Rouge" or "Romeo and Juliet."

With this being said, perhaps Luhrmann should stick to a less conventional form of directing. It might win out with audiences better if they spent less time trying to be epic and just told a story about love and war.



PHOTOS COURTESY TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX/MCT



# ||||||| CAMPUS UPDATE! |||||||

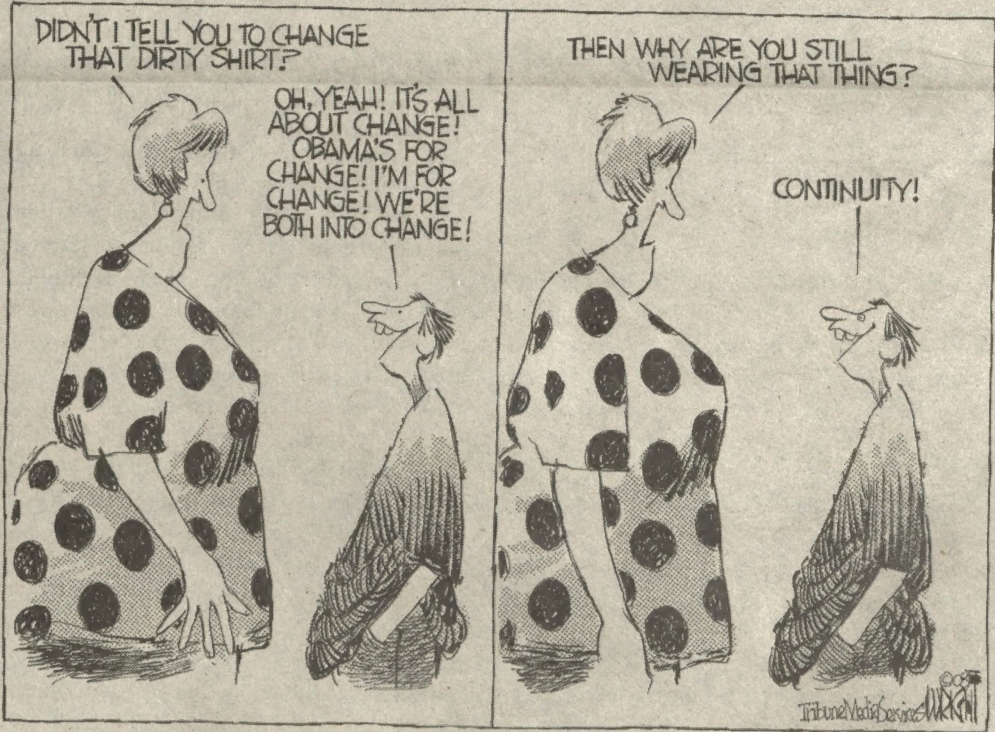
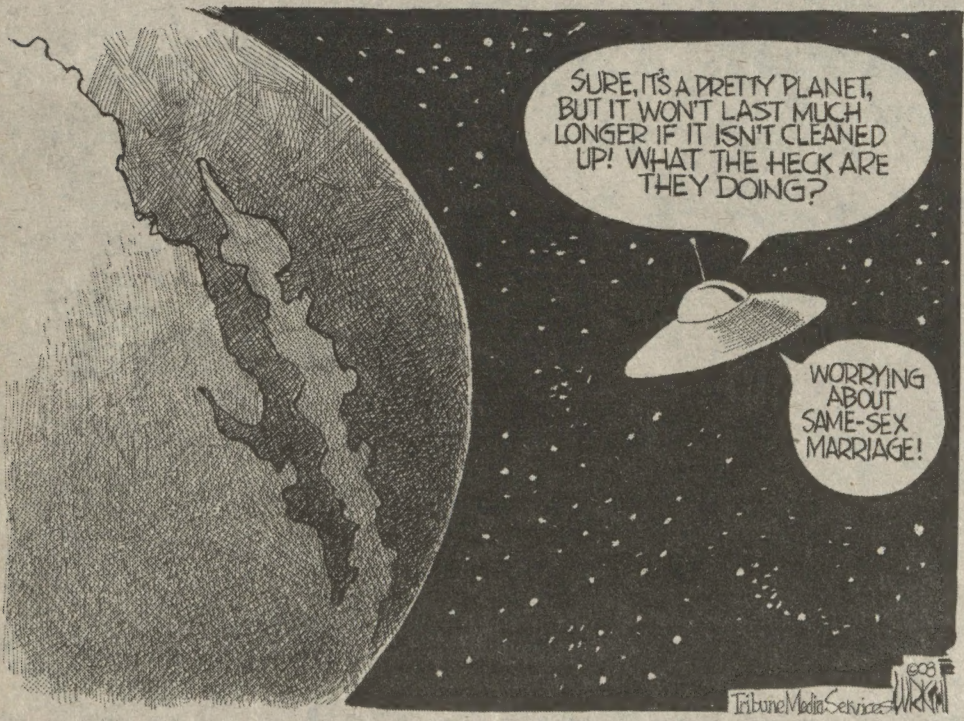
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*The final issue of The Gateway for the fall semester will hit stands Friday, Dec. 12.*



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